

A NEW SPECIES OF *PULTENAEA* (FABACEAE) IN VICTORIA

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ABSTRACT

Corrick, M.G. A new species of *Pultenaea* (Fabaceae) in Victoria. *Muelleria* 8(1): 51–53 (1993). — *Pultenaea victoriensis* M.G. Corrick *sp. nov.* from western Victoria is described as new.

PULTENAEA VICTORIENSIS

Pultenaea victoriensis M.G. Corrick *sp. nov.*

P. scabra R. Br. affinis foliis glabris, marginibus tuberculatis; stipulis adpressis, 1–1.5 mm longis; inflorescentia terminali flore singulari (raro floribus duobus), bracteis infernis persistentibus; bracteolis glabris, 3.5–5 mm longis; 1.5–2 mm latis differt.

TYPUS: Victoria, Western Grampians, Victoria Range Track, 3–4 km south of its junction with Victoria Range Road, 14 Nov. 1991, M.G. Corrick 10793 (HOLOTYPE: MEL; ISOTYPI: PERTH, CBG, HO, K).

Shrub 0.5–3 m high, young branchlets covered with appressed tubercle based hairs, older branches becoming glabrous-tuberculate and finally glabrous. *Leaves* alternate; lamina more or less flat on upper surface with mid-rib depressed and margin slightly recurved; cuneate or obovate to oblong 4–13(-15) mm long \times 2–4(-5) mm wide, tip obtuse or emarginate with short, blunt, recurved mucro; upper surface shiny, minutely tuberculate towards the edges and round the margin; lower surface dull and paler than the upper, midrib prominent and minutely tuberculate; petiole 0.75–1 mm long, tuberculate and occasionally on young growth with a few short hairs which extend to the base of the undersurface of the leaf. *Stipules* 1–1.5(-2) mm long, appressed to the stem. *Inflorescence* usually of a single flower or rarely two at the tips of the short lateral branchlets. *Bracts* 6–9 per flower, broadly to narrowly ovate, 1.5–8 mm long \times 1.5–5 mm wide, mid-brown, scarious, glabrous except for ciliate margins and a small pubescent patch at the base; bracts initially completely enclosing the developing bud but inner bracts deciduous at anthesis leaving 2–3 small outer bracts persistent. *Calyx* 6–8 mm long, densely covered with appressed silky hairs, lobes acuminate 1.5–2 mm long, upper two lobes slightly broader and less deeply divided than lower three. *Bracteoles* 3.5–5 mm long \times 1.5–2 mm wide, mid-brown, scarious, glabrous except for ciliate margins and a few pale hairs at the base, inserted at about the middle of the calyx tube and extending beyond the tips of the calyx lobes. *Standard* 11–14 mm long \times 11–14 mm wide, deep yellow with a pale patch at the base surrounded by dark red radiating lines, wings deep yellow 10–11 mm long, 3–3.5 mm wide, keel petals dark red shading to cream at the base 10–11 mm long, 3–3.5 mm wide. *Stamens* 10, free, filaments 9–10 mm long. *Ovary* sessile, 2 ovulate, 2–2.5 mm long, style slender and gently curved 7–7.5 mm long, ovary and base of style densely covered with pale appressed hairs. Pod broadly and obliquely ovate 7–9 mm long, lower half pubescent and enclosed by the calyx, glabrous internally, seed obliquely ovoid 2.5–3 mm long \times 2 mm wide, dark brown with aril intricately divided into a cluster of slender threads. (Fig. 1)

REPRESENTATIVE SPECIMENS (total number examined 13)

Victoria — Grampians, Victoria Range, Mt Thackeray, 26 Jan. 1969, A.C. Beauglehole 30350 (MEL); Castle Rock, 11 Dec. 1966, J.H. Willis & A.C. Beauglehole s.n. (MEL 663306); Victoria Range Track, 28 Nov. 1965, M.G. Corrick 5871a (MEL, PERTH).

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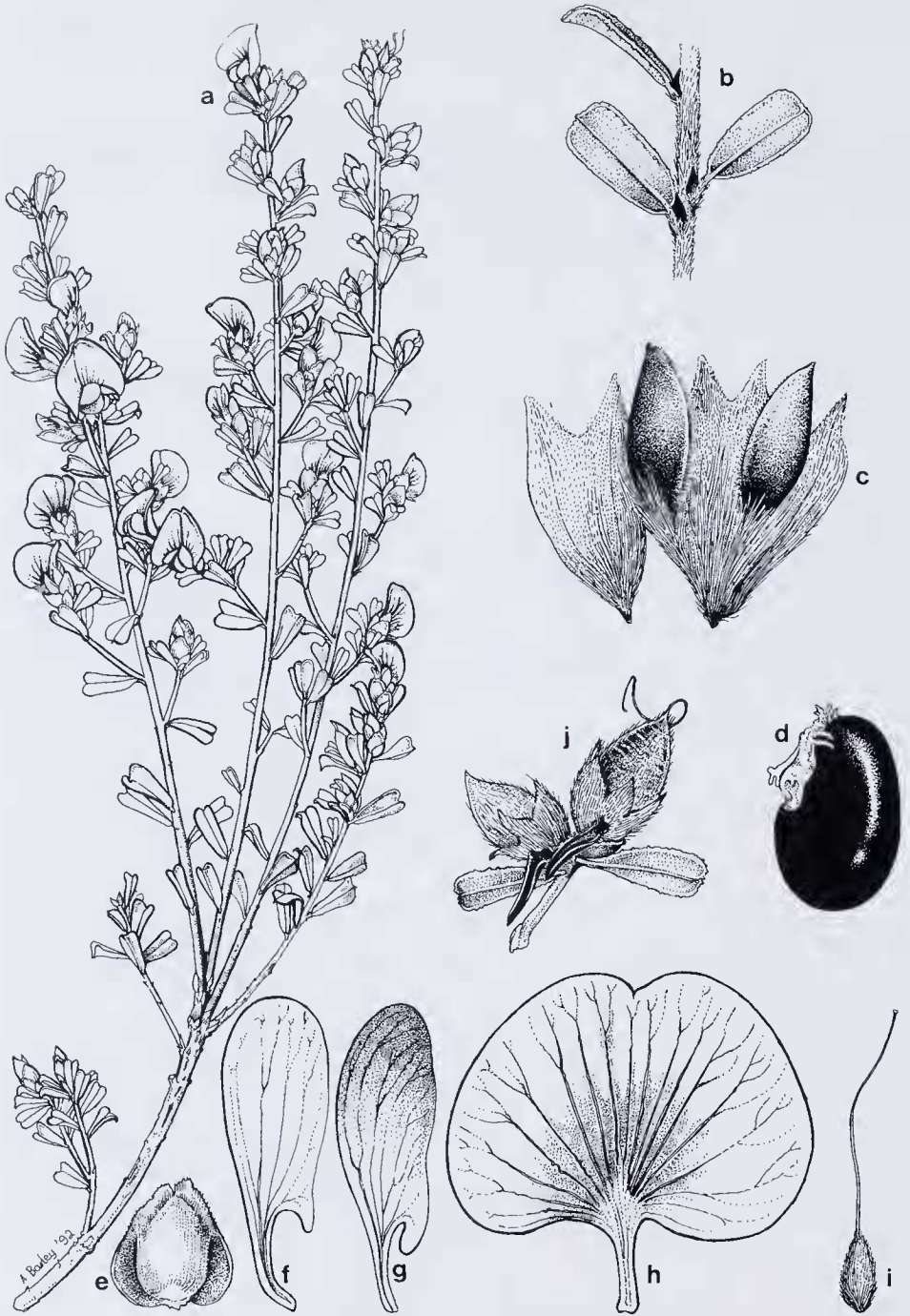


Fig. 1. *Pultenaea victoriensis*. a — flowering twig $\times 1$. b — stem section showing stipules $\times 3$. c — calyx opened out showing bracteoles $\times 4$. d — seed, side view $\times 8$. e — bract $\times 4$. f — wing petal $\times 4$. g — keel petal $\times 4$. h — standard $\times 4$. i — gynoeceum $\times 4$. j — pod $\times 4$. a–i from M.G. Corrick 10793 (MEL); j from M.G. Corrick 5807 (MEL).

DISCUSSION

Pultenaea victoriensis is confined to the upper rocky slopes of the Grampians' Victoria Range between the Chimney Pot and Mt Thackeray above about 800 m altitude. This area is extremely rugged with most parts accessible only on foot. It is therefore likely to be more widely distributed here than present records show. Its habitat is steep rocky sandstone slopes usually with open forest of *Eucalyptus baxteri*, *E. obliqua* and *Banksia saxicola* with a dense shrub understorey; around Castle Rock (also known as The Fortress) it is found in open situations among rocks. It appears to be a favoured food of browsing macropods which may account for the small size and twiggy growth of plants exposed along the margins of tracks or in the crevices of rock platforms. This taxon has previously been regarded as a possible hybrid between *P. scabra* and *P. benthamii* or as a form of *P. scabra* (Corrick 1984). However, *P. victoriensis* is distinctive in its usually single flowered inflorescence with persistent bracts and in the glabrous leaves with small stipules appressed to the stem. *P. scabra* and the hybrids differ in having an inflorescence of more than 2 flowers, usually 4 or 5 with all the bracts deciduous by the time the flowers are open. The leaves of *P. scabra* differ in being scabrid and hairy with longer, dark brown recurved stipules. The leaves of the hybrid populations show a gradation of variation between the parents but in all collections are hairy, at least on the lower surface. *P. scabra* is widespread in the Victoria Range but does not appear to occur above about 800 m altitude, at least in the type locality of *P. victoriensis*. *P. benthamii* is recorded only in the southern Victoria Range near Brown's Creek. No hybrid populations have been observed there.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCE

- Corrick, M.G. (1984) Bush-peas of Victoria — genus *Pultenaea* Sm. Fabaceae — 20. *Victorian Naturalist* 101: 200–203.

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